CLAIMS

1. A method for reducing CPU loading in a software based receiver for a packet based communications system comprising the steps of:

measuring the current CPU load,

determining that the CPU load has exceeded a predetermined threshold,

signaling the communications system transmitter to inhibit packet transmission when the threshold is exceeded,

monitoring the CPU load while the transmitter is inhibited,

determining that the CPU load has fallen below a predetermined threshold, and

signaling the communications system transmitter to begin transmitting packets once the CPU load has fallen below the predetermined threshold.

2. A method as in claim 1, wherein the measurement of CPU loading is made by an operating system background task.

3. A method as in claim 1, wherein the CPU load measurement is based on the response time of the host CPU to a request for interrupt.

4. A method as in claim 1, wherein the transmitter signaling is done through a power save mode.

5. A method as in claim 1, in which the communications system is wireless.

6. A method as in claim 1, in which the communications system is IEEE 802.11 wireless local area network (WLAN).

7. A method as in claim 1, in which the communications system is Bluetooth.

8. A method as in claim 1, in which the communications system is IEEE 802.15 wireless personal area network (PAN).

9. A method for reducing CPU loading in a software based receiver for a packet based communications system comprising the steps of:

measuring the current packet traffic loading,

determining that the traffic load has exceeded a predetermined threshold,

signaling the communications system transmitter to inhibit packet transmission when the threshold is exceeded,

monitoring the traffic load while the transmitter is inhibited,

determining that the traffic load has fallen below a predetermined threshold, and

signaling the communications system transmitter to begin transmitting packets once the traffic load has fallen below the predetermined threshold.

10. A method as in claim 9 wherein the traffic load is measured using packet reception rate.

11. A method as in claim 9, in which the communications system is wireless.

12. A method as in claim 9, in which the communications system is IEEE 802.11 wireless local area network (WLAN).

13. A method as in claim 9, in which the communications system is Bluetooth

14. A method as in claim 9, in which the communications system is IEEE 802.15 wireless personal area network (PAN).